

Paris - June 30th 1851

Dear Sue, I don't think I have found it so hard to smile any time since I have been away: There seems never a time, for since Mr. Lord has been here, we have made such a business of sight-seeing that every moment is filled up; & if I am alone here in the day Madame thinks she must come in to keep me company, & stays talking - And in the evenings I am generally so tired I long to go to bed - And now that Aunt Anna is here I long to pass every moment with her - I have persuaded her to come over & join us in England & see the Exhibition & travel about a little, & go home with us - I think we shall all enjoy it very much -

He is quite curious to hear Martin's English motto, for he kept it quite a secret, & would not tell us what he meant to have put on! - A thousand thanks to Charlie for his patient mending of the case - Your letter came just in time, the copy I despatched to home, many thanks for it & for the particulars, & pray let none of you be afraid of being too minute, or of repeating what the other may have told - I often lose in that way -

Our life went on very quietly & regularly for awhile, after the visit to Mr. Colman with which I closed my last letter - Dr. Jay went out quite early for Paris hours, about 7 o'clock, & I generally went with him at least part way, & returned alone - I find it difficult at all in getting about alone - It is not the custom & therefore would not be agreeable for a young unmarried lady to walk in the streets alone, but as for myself, walking always quietly & steadily & as if I had some business before me, I can walk as easily as at home - Then I spent the rest of the day quietly, except that Madame came generally to make me a visit of an hour or two, until Dr. Jay returned, about 5, when we went out to dinner at some restaurant, & then often spent a good portion of the Ev. on the Boulevards, which are always a gay & amusing sight with their crowds of well-dressed people & their brilliant shops -

I had my patience sorely tried, & have received only appearances ever since, by the dress-maker - And as she has made the dress very badly, altered another for the worse, kept them both & stay much

all the time for the first three weeks, so that I had rather to wear
but my old black silk, & came to the conclusion, after sitting at
home every morning for a week for her, that Paris was no Paradise
in dress-making after all - And that the inconveniences & troubles
at home were perhaps after all better evils. You never saw any-
thing so faithless as the work people here! - If you get a thing made
in a week from the time promised you are happy! - I have to
be sure found one or two exceptions, especially the first time a
person does anything for you. But truth goes but little way with
either party - and I am, really more contented with things at
home; you see more variety there & are tempted by pretty things,
but handsome things cost money, & the consequence is you spend
a great deal more on dress than at home, for people generally
dress so much - For the edification of the ladies I must add
that I have bought one of the fashionable Paris - flowers of every
colour of the rainbow stretching over a white ground - Being
tempted thereto by my husband & Madame - and it is made up
desolite with flounces. - What a wardrobe I should have brought
if I actually received the presents of dresses, caps, &c. Dr. Jean
has made me in the ship's window!

Saturday we made sundry long excursions, & among other places went
into the churches of saint ~~Etienne~~ ^{Etienne}, which is very old & a curious combina-
tion of different ages of architecture. It reminds before true Gothic,
& the front portico being a modern affair of Bastard Ionic, &
into the church of Germain l'Auxerrois, famous as being the church
where the bells sounded which gave the signal for the massacre of
St. Bartholomew - They have restored it very much to its ancient dec-
orations - Like most Catholic churches they are filled with side
chapels & altars & paintings & sundry things - Sunday we went to hear
Monsieur de la Motte, but taking out time ^{from yesterday} ^{paper} we were an hour
late, & so did not get there until the sermon had begun, & got
seats so far off that I could follow & understand nothing - I was
much disappointed, the more as we shall have no other chance
of hearing him - In the afternoon we went to vesper at the Made-
leine. The interior is magnificent & not so injured by gaudy
ornaments as many other churches - It is painted finely in
fresco & the side chapels are arranged more in harmony with
the whole - The altars to the Virgin are always decorated with
white flowers - I think it a pretty custom when the flowers are

natural, but do not see much grace or sentiment in it when
they are artificial - more particularly if covered with a glass
shade - which has too much of a cheap drawing-room effect -
But there is one little that is interesting in the Catholic
service to me, it seems so very artificial - The music was
poor, but we had a version entirely in honour of the Virgin, in-
tertwined with prayers to her - I don't wonder the Catholics keep
the vile way from their followers & set them down to the con-
ditions of the church - there are statues at the entrances &
around all the churches representing people not to spit on the
floor; to take off their hats & to wipe their feet - And begging them
to remember they are in a church! - We have seen a large
number of young girls in the street, dressed entirely in white
& with white caps & long white sails. They are dressed so to take
their first communion - I'm hard yet in the other day where
a large number were assembled, & said it was quite an
imposing scene, all these young girls dressed in white - I
have seen many people more in Paris in the Confessionals, par-
ticularly on Saturdays. One or two of the priests I saw going in did
not look as if they were the people - I should care to understand
my heart to - Wonder whether they really confess - I had
been rather dyspeptic a day or two, & must confess to eating too
good & dinner the next day, particularly a soup called 'a la
brogue', ramous & crabs pounded into a paste, which Dr. Jean
thinks very nice, but I think is too good; so I decided I had
to stay at home & starve, but I was much better Wednesday,
& Madame asked me to go to the theatre with her in the eve-
ing as she was going with a lady, who came for us in her carriage, but
of whose name I am still ignorant, & was of the gentleman who
visited us - We went to the theatre, the two last pieces were very
good - especially the last which was the tricks of a small school,
his success for awhile - Sunday we went to see the Belles-lettres
Herbarium & library - Dr. Jean had known one Siberian when
in Paris 12 years ago, & Dr. Benjamin Delbecq, who was the one
interested in Botany but since then dead - There were several
brothers all living together in this fine neat hotel, where they
have assembled great collections of books, collections in natural

History, pictures &c. &c. - We found Dr. La seque the librarian,
who was very kind in showing us over the herbarium & Library -
Saturday morn'g before we were dressed. Mr. Ward appeared -
having arrived from London the night before - Later in the day
I went with him to call on Mr. Webb, & then we went to the
Jardin des Plantes Dr. Gray & took a little at the ponds
there. The observatory, where we went with Dr. Gray, is a
fine large room admirably arranged, & the varied flowers
so charmingly rear for public view! We had tickets to admit
us to the inside of the house in the menagerie, when the animals
were brought in from the outside - Dr. the Jardin writes a botan-
ical & Geological garden, & covers a great deal of ground. So we went
in & saw the Rhinoceros, the Elephants, the spotted little gazelle
& antelopes, the monkeys, &c. &c. & saw, still in their enclosures,
goats, antelopes, lamas, bears, &c. Many had pretty little rustic
houses in the middle of little yards to live in. Part of the gar-
den is laid out formally with long avenues of trees clipped, so
as to make them look like long green arches - The fine large
trees bear testimony to the age of the garden, & there is a beau-
tiful cedar of Lebanon which the ^{great uncle} gardener of the present possessor
brought a little seedling in his hat from London - From a
high point in the garden we had a fine view over Paris with
its domes & spires - We could not see anything in one day, it
is too fatiguing! And I was glad enough to get back, for many
days I am in my feet almost all day - And I begin to
think I shall be glad to get back to the "greater quiet" of New-
York - How near the time seems to be for coming home now that we
have got into June! - We expect to return to England the last
of this week, when I shall set myself seriously to write. I will
send you soon with my correspondents, & to bring up my
journal, for I must confess you have all reason to scold me
well! - Many thanks, dear one, for your last week's letter -
Aunt Anna has it now, for she had, your loving, no letters last
week - She seems sweetly well, & Mary is better than I expected,
but not very strong, & I fear not always judicious - It is such a pleasure
to see them! - ^{Some believe says a great} many of their letters have never
^{arrived unless by some post-office} ^{been so much love from -} Yours, Maria